

REMARKS

The official action of 6 October 2008 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

A replacement drawing has been submitted to identify the connector 101 as required by the Examiner at paragraph 2 of the Official Action.

The courtesy of the Examiner in indicating the allowability of claims 6-8, 13-15, 20, 26-31, 33, 34, 36 and 37, if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, has been noted with appreciation. The courtesy of the Examiner in indicating the allowability of claims 5, 11, 12, 16-19, 21-23, 32 and 35, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, has also been noted with appreciation.

The claims have now been amended to remove the bases for the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. All claims as amended are respectfully believed to be in allowable form in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

The subject matter in claims 5, 11, 32, 33, and 35, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable, has also been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims whereby these

claims and the claims depending therefrom are respectfully believed to be in allowable form in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 24, and 25 have been canceled whereby to render moot the rejection of these claims. Claim 4 was rejected on the basis that the recitation "adapted to" (sic: "designed to") does not constitute a structural limitation. In contrast, the amendment to claim 4, which requires that the curvature of the upper and/or lower convex surface of the omni-directional lens and the material of which it is made be selected so as to perform the claimed function, is a structural limitation and serves to distinguish the subject matter of this claim from the cited art. See MPEP 2173.05(g) ("A functional limitation must be evaluated and considered, just like any other limitation of the claim, for what it fairly conveys to a person of ordinary skill in the pertinent art in the context in which it is used.").

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims remove each and every basis for objection and objection of record, and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

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